



Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

KIDS HELPING PETS



GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in helping pets, there are plenty of things you can do to make a difference! There are homeless pets at our Animal Care Centers, and there are also pets in your own neighborhood who might need your help.

KIDS HELPING HOMELESS PETS

There are limited volunteer opportunities at our Care Centers if you are between 16 and 18 years old. You won't be able to handle animals, but you can help with other important jobs in the office. The most important ways you can help our homeless pets happen in your home, school, and neighborhood — wherever you are!

Here are some examples of things you can collect or make for the animals in our care:

Things to Collect

- You can help the homeless pets at MCACC by collecting things they need every day. A great project is a Creature Comfort Collection of towels, sheets, and blankets to help our animals feel more safe and comfortable while they are in our care.
- There are also other things you can collect to help our animals: laundry detergent to wash their beds, dish detergent to wash their bowls, or even pennies to help pay for their care!

Things to Make

- Many of the dogs at MCACC like to wear bandannas to help them look special for people who might adopt them! Dog bandannas should be made of lightweight cotton material so we can wash them again and again. Any decorations you use should be made with washable paint or markers (please don't add anything to the bandannas that might come off). Bandannas should be either 24"x24" or 16"x16" squares (to be folded into triangles and tied around the dogs' necks).
- If you are part of a group who likes to build things, there are other projects you can make for homeless animals. Please call the MCACC for more information.

KIDS HELPING NEIGHBORHOOD PETS

You can also help your own pets and those who live in your neighborhood. Pets belong with people! There are lots of things you can do to learn about what pets need to stay safe, happy and healthy.

Things to Learn

- Choose an animal topic that interests you and learn more about it! Use the library and the internet to find books and other information about your topic. You might want to learn more about what pets need, why they do what they do, careers working with pets, how to prevent pet overpopulation, animal laws or other topics.

- **Write** an essay, report, story, song or letter about what you have learned. Make a poster or bulletin board to teach others, too!

Things to Make

- How could you use what you have learned to help pets? You could ask permission to put up posters in your neighborhood about what pets need and how to keep them safe.

- You could also make fun, safe toys for your own pets or for those in the neighborhood. (Learn about safe toys by doing research first)

Things to Do to Help

- Do you know an elderly or sick person who has a pet? Volunteer to help feed, walk, or bathe the person's dog or change cat litter. You might need the help of an adult for some of these tasks. You could make a big difference for a pet and his person.
- You can also watch for pet dangers in your neighborhood. Broken glass, sharp garbage, the plastic rings from drink cans, and other trash are dangerous for animals. By keeping your neighborhood clean of these objects, you will help save pets from injury.
- Be safe around animals by understanding what makes animals feel like they have to bite. (MCACC has more information about this topic.) You can help animals by making sure they feel safe!

- Be a responsible pet guardian! Other people will learn from you when you make sure that your pets have everything they need:

- > Food and clean water
- > Shelter from the weather
- > Veterinary care, vaccinations (shots), and a license
- > Training for good manners
- > Safe toys and plenty of interesting things to do
- > A safe place of his own
- > Lots of time with you!

For more information about Maricopa County Animal Care and Control, call (602) 506-PETS or log on to www.pets.maricopa.gov.